

CLAIMS

1. A method for event ticket distribution, the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) distributing event tickets allocated to a first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution, and, upon completion of said auction distribution;

10 (b) distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second distribution pool.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step (a) of distributing event tickets in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution
15 further includes the steps of:

(a1) determining an initial size for the first distribution pool;

(a2) establishing an initial selling price for the event tickets in the first distribution pool; and

20 (a3) determining a price decrement amount for the decreasing selling price auction.

3. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step (a) of distributing event tickets in accordance
25 with a decreasing selling price auction distribution further includes, during the auction distribution, the steps of:

(a4) collecting and recording transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction
30 distribution;

(a5) dynamically determining selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and

(a6)dynamically determining relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

5 4. The method in accordance with claim 3, further comprising:

 dynamically determining a termination time for the step (a) of distributing event tickets in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at
10 least in part, upon said transaction information.

 5. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step (b) of distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second distribution pool comprises distributing
15 said event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution.

 6. The method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the step (b) of distributing said event tickets in
20 accordance with a lottery distribution further comprises the steps of:

 (b1) collecting and recording lottery participant information;

 (b2) collecting and recording ticket request
25 information, including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

 (b3) identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed.

30 7. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the step of identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed includes a random selection process weighted in accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

8. The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic location of the participant.

5 9. The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.

10 10. The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

15 11. The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

20 12. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the step of collecting and recording lottery participant information includes the step of charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

25 13. The method in accordance with claim 4, wherein event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool are reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

14. A method for event ticket distribution, the method comprising the steps of:

- 30 (a) allocating event tickets to at least first and second distribution pools;
- (b) collecting and recording participant information;
- (c) distributing event tickets allocated to said first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing

selling price auction distribution, and, during said distribution:

5 (i) collecting and recording transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction distribution;

(ii) dynamically determining selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

10 (iii) dynamically determining relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and, upon completion of said decreasing selling price auction distribution;

15 (d) distributing event tickets allocated to at least said second distribution pool.

15. The method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:

20 dynamically determining a termination time for the step (a) of distributing event tickets in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

25 16. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the step (d) of distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second distribution pool comprises distributing said event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution.

30 17. The method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the step (d) of distributing said event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution further comprises the steps of:

35 (d1) collecting and recording lottery participant information;

(d2) collecting and recording ticket request information, including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

(d3) identifying participants to whom tickets are
5 distributed.

18. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the step of identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed includes a random selection process weighted in
10 accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

19. The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic location of the participant.
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20. The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.

20 21. The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

22. The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein
25 the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

23. The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
30 the step of collecting and recording lottery participant information includes the step of charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

24. The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein
35 event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool are

reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

25. A method for event ticket pricing and
5 distribution, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) allocating event tickets to at least first and second distribution pools;

(b) collecting and recording participant information;

(c) distributing event tickets allocated to said
10 first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution, and, during said distribution:

(i) collecting and recording transaction
information related to said decreasing selling price
15 auction distribution;

(ii) dynamically determining selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

(iii) dynamically determining relative sizes of
20 said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

(iv) dynamically determining a termination time
for the step (c) of distributing event tickets in
25 accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and, at a predetermined time;

(d) distributing event tickets allocated to at least
30 said second distribution pool in accordance with a lottery distribution that includes the steps of:

(v) collecting and recording lottery participant information;

(vi) collecting and recording ticket request information, including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

5 (vii) identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed.

26. The method in accordance with claim 25, wherein the step (vii) of identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed includes a random selection process
10 weighted in accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

27. The method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic
15 location of the participant.

28. The method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.
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29. The method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

25 30. The method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

30 31. The method in accordance with claim 25, wherein the step (v) of collecting and recording lottery participant information includes the step of charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

32. The method in accordance with claim 25, wherein event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool are reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

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33. A system for event ticket distribution comprising:

means for distributing event tickets allocated to a first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution; and

means for distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second distribution pool upon completion of said auction distribution;

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34. The system of claim 33, wherein the means for distributing event tickets in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution further comprises:

means for determining an initial size for the first distribution pool;

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means for establishing an initial selling price for the event tickets in the first distribution pool; and

means for determining a price decrement amount for the decreasing selling price auction.

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35. The system of claim 33, wherein the means for distributing event tickets in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution further comprises:

means for collecting and recording transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction distribution, during said distribution;

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means for dynamically determining selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and

means for dynamically determining relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

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36. The system of claim 35, further comprising:
means for dynamically determining a termination time
for the decreasing selling price auction distribution
5 based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the means for
distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second
distribution pool comprises means for distributing said
10 event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the means for
distributing said event tickets in accordance with a
lottery distribution further comprises:

15 means for collecting and recording lottery participant
information;

means for collecting and recording ticket request
information, including number of tickets requested by each
lottery participant; and

20 means for identifying participants to whom tickets are
distributed.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the means for
identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed
25 comprises a random selection process weighted in accordance
with predetermined weighting criteria.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the predetermined
weighting criteria include geographic location of the
30 participant.

41. The system of claim 39, wherein the predetermined
weighting criteria include association membership of the
participant.

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42. The system of claim 39, wherein the pre-determined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

5 43. The system of claim 39, wherein the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

10 44. The system of claim 38, wherein the means for collecting and recording lottery participant information includes means for charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

15 45. The system of claim 36, wherein event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool are reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

20 46. A system for event ticket distribution comprising:

 means for allocating event tickets to at least first and second distribution pools;

 means for collecting and recording participant information;

25 means for distributing event tickets allocated to said first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution;

 means for collecting and recording transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction distribution, during said distribution;

30 means for dynamically determining selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

means for dynamically determining relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and,

means for distributing event tickets allocated to at least said second distribution pool upon completion of said auction distribution.

47. The system of claim 46, further comprising:

means for dynamically determining a termination time for the decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

48. The system of claim 46, wherein the means for distributing event tickets allocated to at least a second distribution pool comprises means for distributing said event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the means for distributing said event tickets in accordance with a lottery distribution further comprises:

means for collecting and recording lottery participant information;

means for collecting and recording ticket request information, including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

means for identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein the means for identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed comprises a random selection process weighted in accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic location of the participant.

5 52. The system of claim 50, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.

53. The system of claim 50, wherein the predetermined
10 weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

54. The system of claim 50, wherein the selection
15 process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

55. The system of claim 49, wherein the means for
20 collecting and recording lottery participant information includes means for charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

56. The system of claim 47, wherein event tickets
25 remaining in the first distribution pool are reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

57. A system for event ticket pricing and distribution comprising:

30 means for allocating event tickets to at least first and second distribution pools;

means for collecting and recording participant information;

35 means for distributing event tickets allocated to said first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution;

means for collecting and recording transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction distribution during said distribution;

means for dynamically determining selling price
5 decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

means for dynamically determining relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

10 means for dynamically determining a termination time for the decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

means for distributing event tickets allocated to at
15 least said second distribution pool in accordance with a lottery distribution at a predetermined time;

means for collecting and recording lottery participant information;

means for collecting and recording ticket request
20 information, including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

means for identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed.

25 58. The system of claim 57, wherein the means for identifying participants to whom tickets are distributed comprises a random selection process weighted in accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

30 59. The system of claim 58, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic location of the participant.

60. The system of claim 58, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.

5 61. The system of claim 58, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

10 62. The system of claim 58, wherein the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

15 63. The system of claim 57, wherein the means for collecting and recording lottery participant information includes means for charging each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

20 64. The system of claim 57, wherein event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool are reallocated to the second distribution pool at said termination time.

25 65. A system for event ticket distribution comprising:

a memory device storing a program;
a processor in communication with the memory, the processor operative with said program to:

allocate event tickets to at least first and second distribution pools;

30 collect and record participant information.

distribute event tickets allocated to said first distribution pool in accordance with a decreasing selling price auction distribution;

collect and record transaction information related to said decreasing selling price auction distribution, during said distribution;

5 dynamically determine selling price decrement amount based, at least in part, upon said transaction information;

 dynamically determine relative sizes of said at least first and second distribution pools based, at least in part, upon said transaction information; and,

10 distribute event tickets allocated to at least said second distribution pool upon completion of said auction distribution.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein the processor is
15 operative to dynamically determine a termination time for the decreasing selling price auction distribution based, at least in part, upon said transaction information.

67. The system of claim 65, wherein the processor is
20 operative to distribute event tickets allocated to said at least a second distribution pool in accordance with a lottery distribution.

68. The system of claim 67, wherein the processor is
25 further operative to:

 collect and record lottery participant information;
 collect and record ticket request information,
including number of tickets requested by each lottery participant; and

30 identify participants to whom tickets are distributed.

69. The system of claim 68, wherein the processor is
operative to identify participants to whom tickets are
distributed using a random selection process weighted in
35 accordance with predetermined weighting criteria.

70. The system of claim 69, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include geographic location of the participant.

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71. The system of claim 69, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include association membership of the participant.

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72. The system of claim 69, wherein the predetermined weighting criteria include participation history of the participant.

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73. The system of claim 69, wherein the selection process is weighted such that probability of selection for a participant decreases with increasing number of tickets selected by said participant.

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74. The system of claim 68, wherein the processor is operative to charge each lottery participant a predetermined subscription fee.

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75. The system of claim 66, wherein the processor is operative to reallocate event tickets remaining in the first distribution pool to the second distribution pool at said termination time.